



February 5, 2015

Written testimony of Sandra J. Bardsley, Administrator, Maefair Health Care Center, Concerning

***Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**

***Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.**

***Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Sandra Bardsley. I am the Administrator, at Maefair Health Care Center located in Trumbull, Connecticut. Maefair Health Care Center is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Trumbull servicing residents from Trumbull and Bridgeport area. We are a 134 skilled nursing facility providing long term skilled nursing care and short term rehabilitation care, we employ 257 nurses, nursing assistants, therapist, social workers and ancillary staff and have a 5 Star Quality Rating from CMS.

First I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills address the fundamental problem of the escalating cost of providing high quality health care by increasing payments based on a cost of living adjustment.

The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our skilled nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

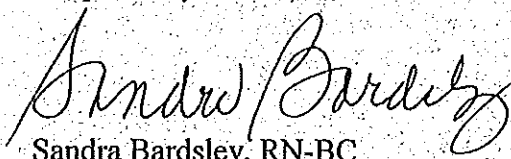
Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- The clinically complex patients are coming into long term care, with multiple comorbidities, requiring extensive nursing care-patients that would have remained in the acute care setting for care. The acuity of patients being discharged to long term care has increased significantly.
- We must hire qualified personnel to care for our residents. In order to insure the hiring of qualified personnel to care for these residents we require a pre-employment physicals, drug screens and criminal background checks the cost of which all continue to rise.
- Continued increase in the cost of resident medications and medical supplies. If a resident is admitted under a Med A benefit the cost of the resident's medication is included in the daily rate.
- Vendor costs for medical supplies, food and utilities continue to rise significantly.
- Increase in non-coverage costs for specialty services, medication that are not covered, rehab services for the under 65 population, we consistently write off charges for ancillary charges that are not covered.

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sandra Bardsley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sandra Bardsley, RN-BC

Administrator